

Jim Hood inquired about the Governor's blind trust, ostensibly after he received some kind of communication from an anonymous individual he has yet to identify. In response we asked the Mississippi Ethics Commission to review the trust, which it did. Materials submitted to the Ethics Commission and the commission's decisions are required by law to be confidential, although there appears to be a flagrant violation of that law in this latest public discussion of the Governor's blind trust, which, tellingly, comes just nine weeks before the general election. I would not even attempt to guess at the political manipulation behind this. I can not give you details of the ruling, but I can tell you this: After the Ethics Commission's review nothing in the blind trust needed to be or was changed. The Ethics Commission sought neither modification nor further action, which the Governor took as the strongest illustration that the blind trust was reported appropriately under Mississippi law.

Generally, this attorney general's opinions aren't worth the paper they're printed on and he has an unfortunate habit of not telling the whole story, which is certainly the case here. Remember, he also opined that the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi was legal (the Supreme Court ruled it was an illegal diversion of taxpayers' dollars) and funneled \$14 million worth of legal business to one of his largest campaign contributors, two major disservices to Mississippi taxpayers for which he has yet to account.